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S-E-C-R-E-T

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

Office of the Executive Secretary

28 February 1963

25X1

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Ray S. Cline, Deputy Director (Intelligence), Central Intelligence Agency
Mr. Allan Evans, Deputy Director for Research, Intelligence and Research, Department of State
[redacted] hief of Staff, Defense Intelligence Agency 25X1
[redacted] Deputy Assistant Director for Production, National Security Agency 25X1A
Mr. Ludwell L. Montague, Board of National Estimates, Central Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT : Comments on PNIOs

1. As agreed at the first meeting of the PNIO Review Committee on 18 February, each member of the Committee has set down his ideas and comments regarding the PNIOs. Copies of those comments are attached hereto for information and consideration at the next meeting of the group, except for the submission of the NSA member, which was distributed directly to Committee members through special channels [redacted] 25X1

2. Committee members are reminded that the next meeting will be held at 1430, 4 March, in the USIB Conference Room, CIA Headquarters Building. 25X1A

[redacted]
Executive Secretary

Attachments

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CIA Comments on PNIOs

1. What is the proper function of the PNIOs?

The PNIOs should provide initial and basic USIB guidance for the coordination of intelligence research and collection through the identification of the critical intelligence problems inherent in the general body of intelligence required for the formulation and execution of national security policy.

2. What action should ensue in response to the PNIOs?

The formulation and adoption of the PNIOs should be the first stage in a three-stage process, as follows:

a. The identification of critical substantive problems (PNIOs, as defined above) as a basis for the assignment of priority research tasks and the consequent allocation of research resources.

b. The derivation of essential elements of information (EEIs)--that is, of specific collection requirements designed to obtain information critically needed to fulfill the priority research tasks referred to above.

c. The assignment of specific collection tasks to the various and disparate systems of intelligence collection according to their capabilities and suitability in each case.

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

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We believe that the process has failed to function properly hitherto for want of definite provision for the accomplishment of the second and third steps in due relation to the first. Specific collection requirements tend to be spontaneously generated and then to have priority claimed for them by post hoc identification with some PNIO. Such collection requirements tend to be served on all systems of collection without discrimination in the hope that some one of them--any one--may actually do something to fulfill them. This practice tends to impose on collectors the task of deciding what should be done and what should be ignored.

We believe that, to solve the true problem, the Committee must not only propose such reform of the PNIOs as may be required, but also demonstrate to USIB how the entire process is to be carried out, through the use of such coordinating mechanisms as may now exist or with the establishment of new mechanisms if any be required.

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